

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-8, 13-15, 17 and 19-22 without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.

Please substitute the following claims 9-12 and 16 for the claims 9-12 and 16 now pending in the above-identified application.

Please add new claims 23-30.

Claims 1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) **The method of claim 18** ~~An agent according to claim 7~~, wherein the insulin sensitizer is pioglitazone hydrochloride, ~~troglitazone, rosiglitazone, 4-[4-[2-(5-methyl-2-phenyloxazol-4-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]isoxazolidin-3,5-dione or 5-[[6-(2-fluorobenzyloxy)-2-naphthyl]methyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione.~~

10. (Currently Amended) **The method of claim 18** ~~An agent according to claim 7~~, wherein the acidosis is diabetic acidosis.

11. (Currently Amended) **The method of claim 18** ~~An agent according to claim 7~~, wherein the acidosis is acidosis caused by a biguanide.

12. (Currently Amended) **The method of claim 18** ~~An agent according to Claim 7~~, which is ~~an agent~~ for preventing or treating disturbance of consciousness, coma or respiratory diseases.

Claims 13-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~An agent~~ **A method** for improving or treating acidosis in a mammal in need thereof which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of an insulin sensitizer in combination with insulin.

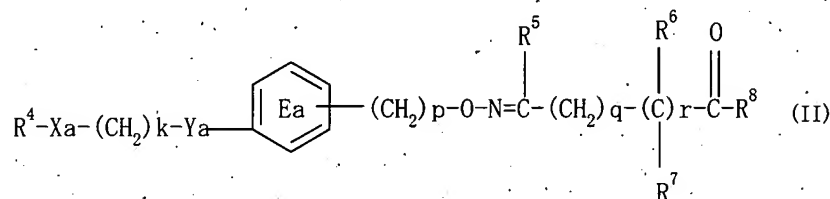
17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) Method for improving or treating acidosis in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of an insulin sensitizer.

Claims 19-22 (Cancelled)

23. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the insulin sensitizer is selected from the group consisting of

- 1) pioglitazone or a salt thereof,
- 2) a compound of the formula:



wherein R^4 represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Xa represents a chemical bond, a group of the formula $-CO-$, $-CH(OH)-$, or $-NR^9-$ where R^9 represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; k is an integer of 1 to 3; Ya represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, or $-NR^{10}-$ where R^{10} represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; ring Ea represents a benzene ring that may have further 1 to 3 substituents; p is an integer of 1 to 8; R^5 represents hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; q is an integer of 0 to 6; r is 0 or 1; R^8 represents hydroxy, $-OR^{11}$ where R^{11} represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ where R^{12} and R^{13} are the same or different, and represent hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, a heterocyclic group that may be substituted, or an acyl group that may be substituted, or R^{12} and R^{13} may be combined to form a ring; R^6 and R^7 are

the same or different, and represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or

R⁶ and R⁵ may be combined to form a ring; or a salt thereof;

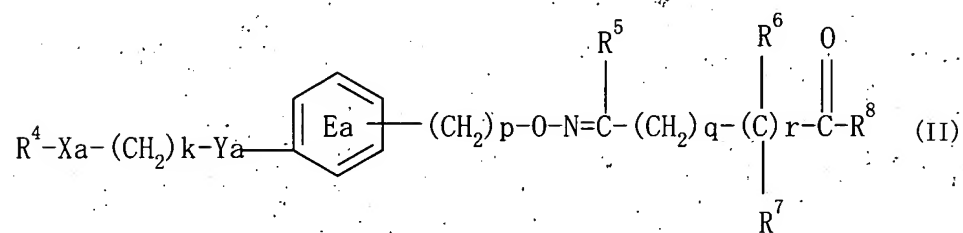
3) 5-[[6-(2-fluorobenzyloxy)-2-naphthyl]methyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione;

4) FK-614; and

5) KRP-297.

24. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the insulin sensitizer is pioglitazone hydrochloride.

25. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the insulin sensitizer is a compound of the formula:



wherein R⁴ represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Xa represents a chemical bond, a group of the formula -CO-, -CH(OH)-, or -NR⁹- where R⁹ represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; k is an integer of 1 to 3; Ya represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -SO-, -SO₂-, or -NR¹⁰- where R¹⁰ represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; ring Ea represents a benzene ring that may have further 1 to 3 substituents; p is an integer of 1 to 8; R⁵ represents hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; q is an integer of 0 to 6; r is 0 or 1; R⁸ represents hydroxy, -OR¹¹ where R¹¹ represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or -NR¹²R¹³ where R¹² and R¹³ are the same or different, and represent hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, a heterocyclic group that may be substituted, or an

acyl group that may be substituted, or R¹² and R¹³ may be combined to form a ring; R⁶ and R⁷ are the same or different, and represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or R⁶ and R⁵ may be combined to form a ring; or a salt thereof.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the compound is

Z-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-2-phenylacetic acid;

Z-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyric acid;

Z-2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]acetic acid;

Z-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)acetic acid;

Z-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;

Z-3-methyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;

E-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyric acid;

E-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;

E-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyramide; or

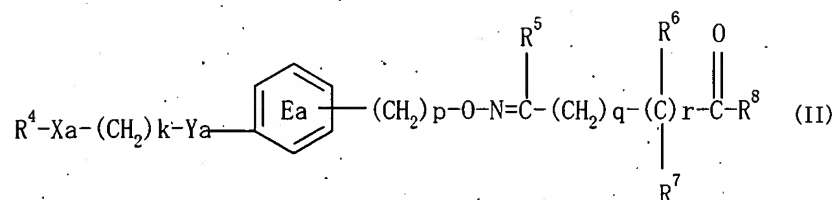
E-8-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-8-phenyloctanoic acid.

27. (NEW) The method of claim 16 which is for treating disturbance of consciousness, coma or respiratory distress.

28. (NEW) The method of claim 18 wherein the insulin sensitizer is selected from the group consisting of

1) pioglitazone or a salt thereof,

2) a compound of the formula:



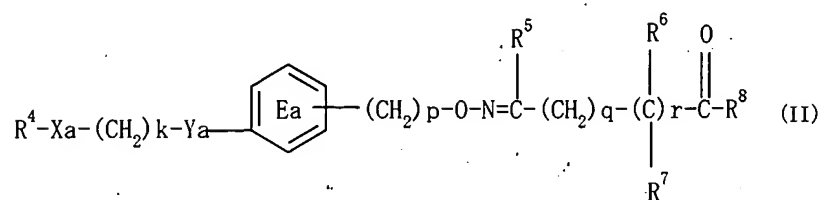
wherein R^4 represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Xa represents a chemical bond, a group of the formula $-CO-$, $-CH(OH)-$, or $-NR^9-$ where R^9 represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; k is an integer of 1 to 3; Ya represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, or $-NR^{10}-$ where R^{10} represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; ring Ea represents a benzene ring that may have further 1 to 3 substituents; p is an integer of 1 to 8; R^5 represents hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; q is an integer of 0 to 6; r is 0 or 1; R^8 represents hydroxy, $-OR^{11}$ where R^{11} represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ where R^{12} and R^{13} are the same or different, and represent hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, a heterocyclic group that may be substituted, or an acyl group that may be substituted, or R^{12} and R^{13} may be combined to form a ring; R^6 and R^7 are the same or different, and represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or R^6 and R^5 may be combined to form a ring; or a salt thereof;

3) 5-[[6-(2-fluorobenzyloxy)-2-naphthyl]methyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione;

4) FK-614; and

5) KRP-297.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 18 wherein the insulin sensitizer is a compound of the formula:



wherein R^4 represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Xa represents a chemical bond, a group of the formula $-CO-$, $-CH(OH)-$, or $-NR^9-$ where R^9 represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; k is an integer of 1 to 3; Ya represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, or $-NR^{10}-$ where R^{10} represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; ring Ea represents a benzene ring that may have further 1 to 3 substituents; p is an integer of 1 to 8; R^5 represents hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; q is an integer of 0 to 6; r is 0 or 1; R^8 represents hydroxy, $-OR^{11}$ where R^{11} represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ where R^{12} and R^{13} are the same or different, and represent hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, a heterocyclic group that may be substituted, or an acyl group that may be substituted, or R^{12} and R^{13} may be combined to form a ring; R^6 and R^7 are the same or different, and represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or R^6 and R^5 may be combined to form a ring; or a salt thereof.

30. (NEW) The method of claim 29 wherein the compound is

Z-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-2-phenylacetic acid;

Z-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyric acid;

Z-2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]acetic acid;

Z-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)acetic acid;

Z-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;

Z-3-methyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;

E-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyric acid;

E-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;

E-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyramide; or

E-8-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-8-phenyloctanoic acid.